

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following text on page 2 between lines 9 and 10:

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 shows a customary embodiment of fractional condensation of a hot gas mixture comprising acrylic acid wherein line 1 is cooled in a quench (spray cooler) IV and fed via line 2 to the bottom region I.a of the column. The coolant (unvaporized high-boiler fraction from I.a) is recycled into the quench (spray cooler) IV via line 3 in order to cool the hot gas mixture.

Figure 2 shows an embodiment of fractional condensation of a hot gas mixture comprising acrylic acid wherein the high-boiler fractions of the column from sections I.a and I.b may be recycled separately into the quench. In this embodiment the fraction from I.b is directly, without heat exchangers, recycled to the spray cooler apparatus IV.

Figure 3 shows the embodiment of Figure 2, but in the absence of heat exchanger III.

Figure 4 shows the embodiment of Figure 1, but in the absence of heat exchanger III.

Figure 5 shows an embodiment of fractional condensation of a hot gas mixture comprising acrylic acid wherein cooling may take place isolated from the column I in a separate apparatus represented by heat exchanger II and external quench (spray cooler) V.